

"It will always be easy to bring certain remedies of this class to a thoroughly practical test. Thus, when a case of measles appears among a family of young children, it may be taken for granted that the other members of the family who have not previously suffered from the disease will be infected during the catarrhal stage; so that internal disinfectants administered to the children during the stage of incubation should prove effectual. The same observations apply to such diseases as scarlet fever, hooping-cough, and perhaps diphtheria; but the difficulties will be much greater in the case of enteric fever, the characteristic symptoms of which are much more obscure.

In the introduction to his paper Dr. Sanderson remarked: "said Mr. Simon, in his remarkable paper on 'Filth Diseases and their Prevention,' which serves as the introduction to his *Supplementary Report*, published in 1874, "uncleanliness must be reckoned as the deadliest of our present removable causes of disease." To counteract the hurtful influence of filth is the chief aim of the sanitary administrator. It is therefore desirable that he should possess 'some intelligent appreciation of the ways in which filth becomes destructive.'

Mr. Simon proceeds to state, said Dr. Sanders, as the result of investigations which were in 1874 comparatively recent, that the hurtfulness of filth depends not on its offensiveness but on the existence in it of "morbific ferments," which he identifies with contagia—"matters which are not only not gaseous, but, on the contrary, seem to have their essence, or an inseparable part of it in certain solid elements which the microscope discovers in them: in living organisms, namely, which in their largest sizes are but very minute microscopical objects; and at their least sizes are probably unseen, even with the microscope: organisms which in virtue of their vitality are

indefinitely self-multiplying within their respective spheres of operation, and which, therefore, as a contrast with common poisons can develop indefinitely large ultimate effects from first doses which are indefinitely small." He then divides contagia into two classes, namely, (1) those of which "man's body is the sole birthplace," and which "we see in case after case multiplying their respective types with a successivity as definite and identical as that of the highest orders of animal or vegetable life;" and (2) those which "confess a birthplace exterior to man, a birthplace amid controllable conditions in the physical nature which is around us, a birthplace amid the common putrefactive changes of dead organic matter."

Both are held to have intimate relations with filth, and it is on this consideration that the force of the emphatic statement from which we started, lies. It is in 'filth' that the innate contagia find the conditions necessary for their continued life outside of the living body—the extraneous ones, not only a soil but a cradle—not that the one more than the other can be stated in any exact sense to be the offspring of filth, but that the morbid ferments of the one class are in relation with 'filth' from the very moment of their origin; whereas those which originate in diseased tissue are brought into relation with their filth environment only after their escape from their birthplace.

In the later paragraphs of the same paper the author, Mr. Simon, said Dr. Sanders, discusses, with his accustomed perspicuity and force of language, the various means which the sanitary administrator has at his disposal for combatting the particular evils which spring directly or indirectly from the disease producing faculty of filth. It is sufficient for my present purpose to state that, as regards those forms of external uncleanliness which are the subjects of sewerage and scavenging, he attaches little value or